

{20} Proverbs

King James Version

Chapter 31

- (1) The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him.
- (2) What, my son? and what, the son of my womb? and what, the son of my vows?
- (3) Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings.
- (4) *It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink:*
- (5) Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.
- (6) Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts.
- (7) Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.
- (8) Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction.
- (9) Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.
- (10) Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.
- (11) The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.
- (12) She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.
- (13) She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.
- (14) She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.
- (15) She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.

King James Paraphrase

Chapter 31

- (1) The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him.
- (2) What, my son? and what, the son of my womb? and what, the son of my vows?
- (3) Do not give your strength to women, nor your ways to that which destroys kings.
- (4) *It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink:*
- (5) Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.
- (6) Give strong drink to him who is ready to perish, and wine to those who are full of sorrow.
- (7) Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.
- (8) Open your mouth for the dumb in the cause of all who are appointed to destruction.
- (9) Open your mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.
- (10) Who can find a virtuous woman? because her price is far above rubies.
- (11) The heart of her husband does safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.
- (12) She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.
- (13) She seeks wool, and flax, and works willingly with her hands.
- (14) She is like the merchants' ships; she brings her food from afar.
- (15) She rises also while it is yet night, and gives food to her household, and a portion to her maidens.

{20} Proverbs

King James Version	King James Paraphrase
<p>(16) She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.</p> <p>(17) She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.</p> <p>(18) She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night.</p> <p>(19) She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.</p> <p>(20) She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.</p> <p>(21) She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household <i>are</i> clothed with scarlet.</p> <p>(22) She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing <i>is</i> silk and purple.</p> <p>(23) Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.</p> <p>(24) She maketh fine linen, and selleth <i>it</i>; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.</p> <p>(25) Strength and honour <i>are</i> her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.</p> <p>(26) She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue <i>is</i> the law of kindness.</p> <p>(27) She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.</p> <p>(28) Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband <i>also</i>, and he praiseth her.</p> <p>(29) Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.</p> <p>(30) Favour <i>is</i> deceitful, and beauty <i>is</i> vain: <i>but</i> a woman <i>that</i> feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.</p> <p>(31) Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.</p>	<p>(16) She considers a field, and buys it: with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.</p> <p>(17) She ties her belt^a with strength, and strengthens her arms^b.</p> <p>(18) She perceives that her merchandise <i>is</i> good: her candle does not go out by night^c.</p> <p>(19) She lays her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff^d.</p> <p>(20) She stretches out her hand to the poor; yes, she reaches forth her hands to the needy.</p> <p>(21) She is not afraid of the snow for her household: because all her household <i>are</i> clothed with scarlet.</p> <p>(22) She makes herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing <i>is</i> silk and purple.</p> <p>(23) Her husband is known in the gates, when he sits among the elders of the land.</p> <p>(24) She makes fine linen, and sells <i>it</i>; and delivers belts to the merchant.</p> <p>(25) Strength and honour <i>are</i> her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.</p> <p>(26) She opens her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue <i>is</i> the law of kindness.</p> <p>(27) She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness.</p> <p>(28) Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband <i>also</i>, and he praises her.</p> <p>(29) Many daughters have done virtuously, but you excel them all.</p> <p>(30) Favor <i>is</i> deceitful, and beauty <i>is</i> vain: <i>but</i> a woman <i>who</i> fears the LORD {Jehovah}, she shall be praised.</p> <p>(31) Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.</p>

31:17a – girds her loins – fastens her belt with strength – she gets ready to do work without hesitation

31:17b – strengthens her arms – she does not hesitate to do hard work

31:18c – her candle does not go out by night – she works into the night to provide for her family

31:19d – spindle and distaff – tools used for spinning thread to be used for weaving cloth